



HUMBLE PETITION

By the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons

Deanes, and their Officials; Parsons, Vicars, Curats and to all spirituall Persons, and also to all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Sherikes, Baplistes, Constables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughes. And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate, And to all other our Officers, Ministers and Subiects whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

WE BEAS By the humble Supplication and Petition of the Inhabitants, and Parishioners of S. Margaret at Cliffs, neere to the Port of Dover, to Our selfe exhibited, at New-Market, the 3. day of March, An.Dom. 1637. As also by severall Certificates, one under the hands of Our trusty and well-beloved, Sir Dudley Digges Knight, Master of the Roles, Sir Edward Hales, and Sir Edward Deering Knights and Barons. Sir Edward Boy, Sir Thomas Wilford, and Sir John Honeywood Knights, Isaac Bargrave, Deane of Canterbury, Walter Balcanquall, Deane of Rochester, Lancelot Lovelace, Edward Hadd, Thomas Denn, Reginald Edwards, Thomas Paramore, Thomas Godfrey, and Thomas Blechinden Esquiers, Justices of the Peace within our County of Kent, A Certificate of the Master and Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinity house of Deptford Stroud, in the foresaid County, a Certificate of Sir John Penington, and others, We have bene credibly given to vnderstand, that the Church and Steeple of Saint Margaret, at Cliffs aforesaid, in the said County of Kent, being situated neere the Downes, hath time out of mind bene, and now still continueth, and is a principall sea marke and of that import, as that without it, neither his Majesties or other Ships cannot passe with safety from the North foreland into the Downes, nor from the Downes into the North foreland. It being all, and the only leading marke, to shap and direct all Ships in their course, by and through the dangerous passage of the Gulls neere Weale in the said County and the Inner Chanels in the Downes, which Steeple as a Sea mark is of such consequence, that if it should not stand and be continually maintained and repaired, would prove very prejudiciall to the Navigation in generall, errading to and from the Southerne parts, and may occasion the losse of many Ships and many mens lives, which Steeple is now growne to bee so ruinous and in that decay, that the charge of repairing thereof, upon the view of foure Justices of Peace living neere that place, and by the Judge and view of trothmen skilfull, as we are also certified, amount unto the summe of Two hundred and fifty pounds the least, which charge the said Parishioners are no wayes able (as we are informed) they having heretofore disbursed two hundred pounds: at least in repairing the said Church and Steeple, and being now become few in number, and so weak in estate, are not able to maintain their poore, many of them being forced to be relieved by the next Parish, where our said subject the Parishioners of Saint Margaret aforesaid have most humbly besought us for some means or contribution for repairs of the said Steeple and Sea-mark, unto whose request tending to the honour of God, the safety and preservation of the lives and Ships of our Subiects, We most willingly have condescended, and by our Letters Patents under our Great Seale, have thought good to commend this good and Christianlike worke unto the charitable benivolence of our well-disposed Subiects within the said County of Kent, and certaine other Counties and places hereafter mentioned, Not doubting but that all good Christians duly considering the premises will be ready and willing to extend their liberall contributions towards the furtherance and effecting of so good, so necessary, and so charitable a work.

WE BE Therefore, that of our especiall grace and Princely compassion, We have given and granted, and by these Our Letters Patents under Our great Seale of England, do give a grant unto the said Inhabitants & Parishioners of Saint Margaret at Cliffs aforesaid, and to their Deputy, Deputies, the Bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and authority, to aske gather, receive, & take the Almes & charitable benevolence of all our loving Subiects whatsoever inhabiting within Our Citie of London, the Suburbs, and Liberties thereof. Our Countiees of Kent, Southampton, Norfolk, Suffolke, Cambridge, and Hartford, Our Citiees of Canterbury and Rochester, with the Cinque Ports, Our Citie of Winchester, Our Towne and County of Southampton, with the Isle of Wight, Our Citie of Norwich, the Universities and Towne of Cambridge with the Isle of Ely, And in all other Citiees, Townes Corporate, Primiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within Our said Countiees, and not else where, for and towards the speedy repairing of the said Steeple and to no other use intenc or purpose whatsoever.

WE BE We will and command you, and every of you, that at such time and times as the Inhabitants or Parishioners aforesaid, their Deputy, and Deputies, the Bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repair to any your Churches, Chappells, or other places, to aske, and receive the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our said Subiects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets or contradiations. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better stirring up of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenour of these Our Letters Patents, or the Coppy or Brieffe hereof, unto our said Subiects upon some Sunday shortly after the same shall bee tendered unto you, and before the expiration of the date hereof, Earnestly Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall Contributions in so good and charitable a Work.

WE BE You the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to bee made (as aforesaid) to Collect and gather the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subiects, as well strangers as others. And what shall be by you so gathered, to bee by the Minister and your selves entered on the backside of these our Letters Patents or the Coppy or Brieffe hereof, in words at length, and not in figures, And the Summe and Summes of Money so gathered and endorsed, Our will and pleasure is shall be delivered to the Bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents, warranted and allowed to receive the same, and to no other person, when as thereunto you shall be required.

WE BE We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, To continue for the space of One whole yeare and no longer, Witness Our selfe at Canbury the Sixth day of July in the fourteenth Yeare of Our Reigne.

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